



Gp 1653

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

Tripp et al.

Serial No.: 09/003,574

Filed: January 6, 1998

Atty. File No.: 2618-21-1-C1

For: "PARASITE ASTACIN
METALLOENDOPEPTIDASE
PROTEINS"

Box Non-Fee Response

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

) Group Art Unit: 1653

) Examiner: Schnizer, H.

) AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

) UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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ADDRESSED TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR
PATENTS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231 ON 12/11/00
SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

BY: *T. A. Russell*

Dear Sir:

This Amendment and Response is filed in response to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on September 11, 2000. No fees are believed to be due with this Amendment and Response; however, if fees are due, please debit Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

Please reconsider the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof as follows (Applicants note that all pending claims are presented below, whether or not amended herein, for the Examiner's convenience):

1. (Four Times amended) An isolated protein encoded by a *Dirofilaria immitis* nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to the complement of a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, and SEQ ID NO:33, under conditions comprising (a) hybridizing in 2X SSPE, 1% Sarkosyl, 5X Denhardt's and 0.1 mg/ml denatured salmon sperm and (b) washing in a solution comprising 2X SSPE and 1% Sarkosyl at 55°C; wherein said protein has astacin metalloendopeptidase activity [selectively binds to an antibody raised against a protein having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID